

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 OSLO 04922 061656Z

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ACTION SS-25

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P R 061612Z NOV 74
FM AMEMBASSY OSLO
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S E C R E T OSLO 4922

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: ENRG, NO
SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTER'S LETTER TO SECRETARY KISSINGER

REF: (A) OSLO 4856 (B) OSLO 4872

1. FOREIGN MINISTER FRYDENLUND GAVE ME TODAY THE
FOLLOWING LETTER TO THE SECRETARY CONCERNING
NORWAY'S DECISION ON THE IEP:

DEAR MR. SECRETARY,
I AM WRITING TO YOU IN CONNECTION WITH THE
NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT'S REQUEST FOR SOME OTHER
FORM OF ASSOCIATION WITH THE INTERNATIONAL
ENERGY PROGRAM - IEP - THAN THROUGH FULL
MEMBERSHIP. I AM AWARE THAT THIS DECISION
HAS BEEN A DISAPPOINTMENT TO MANY OF
NORWAY'S PARTNERS. HOWEVER, THIS DECISION
CAN ONLY BE UNDERSTOOD IN THE LIGHT OF THE
SPECIAL SITUATION IN WHICH NORWAY FINDS HER-
SELF, AND WHICH I ATTEMPTED TO EXPLAIN TO
YOU DURING OUR CONVERSATION IN NEW YORK IN
SEPTEMBER.

THIS REQUEST FOR SOME OTHER FORM OF
ASSOCIATION DOES NOT IN ANY WAY IMPLY THAT
WE ARE MAKING ANY RESERVATIONS IN RESPECT
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 OSLO 04922 061656Z

OF OIL DELIVERIES IN A CRISIS. IT GOES

WITHOUT SAYING THAT NORWAY, AS A FUTURE OIL EXPORTING COUNTRY, WILL DO HER UTMOST TO COOPERATE IN SOLVING SUCH A CRISIS. IN SUCH A SITUATION WE ARE ALSO PREPARED TO SUBJECT OURSELVES TO ANY NECESSARY RESTRICTIONS IN CONSUMPTION AND WE ARE READY TO CONCLUDE AN AGREEMENT WITH THE NEW ENERGY ORGANIZATION WHICH WILL DETERMINE OUR OBLIGATIONS IN THIS RESPECT.

I WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS MY EARNEST HOPE THAT YOU WILL, ON THIS BASIS, FEEL ABLE TO GIVE YOUR SUPPORT TO AN ARRANGEMENT WHICH WILL MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR NORWAY, IN OTHER RESPECTS, TO TAKE PART IN THE INTERNATIONAL ENERGY AGENCY.

PLEASE ACCEPT MY MOST SINCERE GOOD WISHES FOR SUCCESS IN YOUR WORK FOR PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

YOURS SINCERELY,
KNUT FRYDENLUND

2. IN TRANSMITTING THE LETTER, FRYDENLUND EMPHASIZED TO ME HOW SERIOUS NORWAY WAS IN ITS WISH TO ACHIEVE ASSOCIATE STATUS IN THE IEP AND TO PARTICIPATE TO THE FULLEST EXTENT POSSIBLE IN ITS WORK. HE SAID HE SINCERELY HOPED NORWAY WOULD BE ABLE TO COUNT ON THE U.S. TO ASSIST IT IN GAINING ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP.

3. IN A SEPARATE DISCUSSION, THE FOREIGN OFFICE POLITICAL DIRECTOR GENERAL VIBE REITERATED NORWEGIAN INTEREST IN GAINING ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP. HE POINTED OUT THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTER IN HIS FOREIGN POLICY ADDRESS TO STORTING HAD DEPICTED IEP IN VERY POSITIVE LIGHT (OSLO 4872), AVOIDING CRITICISM OF SPECIFIC FEATURES OF THE PROGRAM, EVEN THOUGH DECISION WAS THAT NORWAY COULD NOT ACCEPT FULL MEMBERSHIP.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 OSLO 04922 061656Z

4. IN DISCUSSING DRAFT OF LETTER, FRYDENLUND SAID HE HAD ORIGINALLY INCLUDED MENTION OF NORWAY'S POLITICAL PROBLEM WITH EC ISSUE IN EXPLAINING NORWAY'S CONCERN ABOUT IEP. THE PRIME MINISTER, HOWEVER, IN REVIEWING THE LETTER DELETED THIS SECTION SAYING HE DID NOT BELIEVE AND DID NOT WANT OTHERS TO THINK NORWAY WAS IN A RUT AND UNABLE TO MOVE

ON BEYOND THE EC ISSUE.

5. FRYDENLUND SAID HE HOPED HIS LETTER WOULD BE TREATED AS CONFIDENTIAL, EXPLAINING HE WAS QUITE CONCERNED OVER A COUPLE OF RECENT LEAKS IN OSLO OF SENSITIVE INFORMATION.
BYRNE

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